

VERDUN IS TREMBLING

CONGRESS WILL WAIT UNTIL WILSON AND LANSING TRY OUT POLICY OF ASSERTING RIGHT TO TRAVEL ON ARMED SHIPS FEDERAL ARMY RESERVE TENDENCY GROWING

FRENCH LINE SWEEPED BACK BY GERMANS

Greatest Concentration of Artillery Fire Blasts Out Way for the German Troops.

FRENCH ARE RETREATING

French Statement Says Position is Retaken and Germans Fail to Drive French Back.

(By Associated Press.) The French war office, in its latest official statement, describes the battle around Fort Douaumont, one of the outlying forts of Verdun, as desperate, but makes no actual admission of the capture of the fort by the Germans as claimed in the official communication issued at Berlin.

Fort Douaumont, says the French statement, is an advance element of the old defensive organization of Verdun fortress and goes on to say that the position captured Saturday morning by the Germans, after several fruitless assaults, was reached again by French troops, who succeeded in advancing beyond that point, and have maintained their ground. The position referred to is not clearly defined.

Vigorous Counter Attacks. Heavy bombardments by the Germans to the east and west of the Meuse were met by vigorous counter attacks, and the French have resisted the attempts of the Germans to capture Champneuville and La Cote de Poivre (Pepperhill), two positions of strategic importance.

Late despatches from Paris say that utmost confidence is felt there in the ability of the French troops to withstand the German assaults, and in some quarters, a continuation of the battle centering around Verdun for the next two weeks is looked for.

Verdun, greatest offensive fortress, and widely considered virtually impregnable, is trembling under an attack of unprecedented violence which already is declared by the Germans to have breached outer defenses and driven back its French defenders upon their inner lines in other sectors.

Under the eyes of their emperor, whose presence at the front is officially announced, the German infantry has advanced to the charge on both sides of the salient wherein lies Verdun, and according to Berlin, has stormed and taken the outlying fort of Douaumont, northeast of the fortress, while on the plain of Woëvre to the east and southeast it has swept back the French lines and broken their resisting power along the front, forcing them to retreat with the Germans in pursuit.

Way Blasted Out. The crown prince's armies engaged in the terrific battle had their way blasted out for them, according to correspondents near the scene, by what is said to be the greatest concentration of artillery fire known to history, in which the monster guns of the Germans and Austrians, brought from the Serbian and Russian fronts, have played an important part.

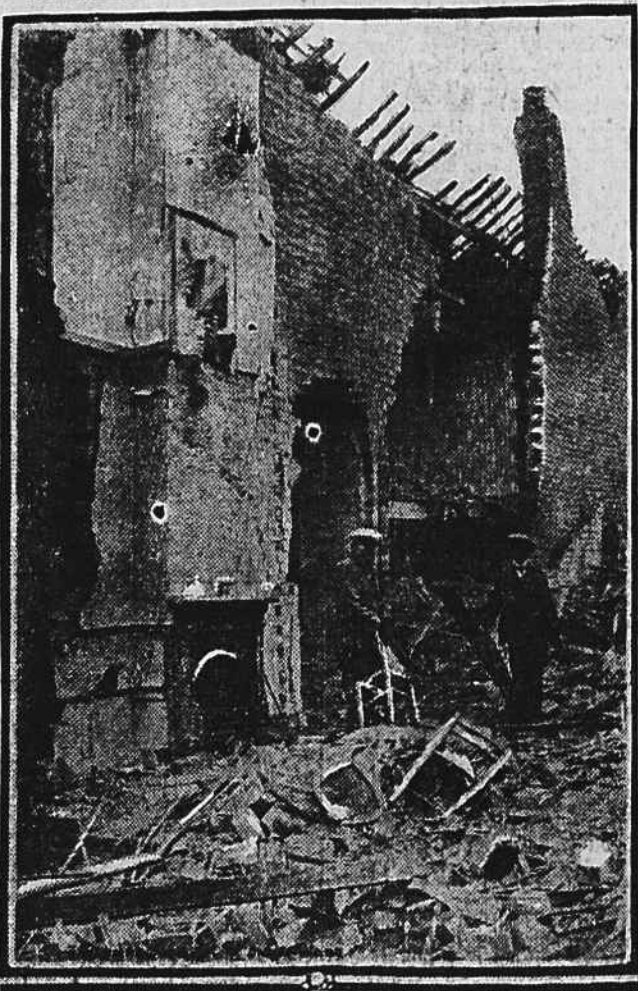
With this mighty aid, the infantry has pushed down the valley of the Meuse, gained the hills southwest of Louvemont, not more than four miles from the fortress and carried fortified positions to the east, Berlin declares, the Brandenburg regiments play distinguishing themselves in storming Fort Douaumont.

Assail French Lines. While this was going on, the Germans in the Woëvre were assailing the French lines on the eastern "of the salient, the co-operations apparently being designed to push in the sides of the projecting front, a buckling process, which if kept up, would soon result in the fall of the fortress.

The French, however, are defending their stronghold with notable tenacity, and to various accounts, inflicting terrible losses on the attacking forces. Paris has not conceded the fall of Fort Douaumont, although admitting that the fighting there has taken on an extremely sanguinary character, and it only mentions the Woëvre region in an announcement that the advanced post held for observation purposes along the line from Ornes to Hennefont has been attacked by the German infantry. The German attacks along the front are declared by Paris to be made without regard to the losses sustained.

Notwithstanding the concentration (Continued on page 2, first section.)

ENGLISH HOME VISITED BY ZEPPELIN



German Zeppelins are again active in England. Recently they swooped down on Liverpool and after they had retreated a number of dead and wounded—mostly women and children—were left on the field. Photo shows the ruins of an apartment house occupied by workmen. The fireplace in the dining room is shown at the lower left.

LARGER GUNS AND JUST TWO FEWER

FRANCIS ACCEPTS.

(By Associated Press.) LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26.—J. H. Francis, superintendent of the Los Angeles public schools, has been offered the position of superintendent of schools at Columbus, O., and will accept the offer, according to information received here today. Mr. Francis has been head of the local schools for five years. He is now in the East.

STRIKE ENDS

And the Whole City Turns Out to Make a Holiday over the Decision.

(By Associated Press.) ANSONIA, Conn., Feb. 26.—The strike of laborers at the American Brass Company's mills was formally declared ended today. The men will return to work Monday under a compromise settlement which gives them a fifteen per cent increase in wages. When the decision was made public, virtually the whole city turned out to make a holiday over the ending of the strike which began nearly two weeks ago. More than 1,500 strikers, it was estimated, fell into line and marched through the principal streets. Joseph M. Grohol, the young man who acted as interpreter for the several nationalities among the men, was at the head of the line on horseback, and carrying an American flag. Mayor John W. Schumacher reviewed the parade.

ESSAD PASHA

Arrives in the City of Rome and is Being Closely Guarded at the Hotel.

(By Associated Press.) ROME, via Paris, Feb. 26.—Essad Pasha, provisional president of Albania, arrived here today. He was met at the station by Baron Aloiti, the Italian minister to Albania. Essad Pasha is closely guarded at the hotel where he is staying.

Essad Pasha arrived at Brindisi on an Italian destroyer February 24. He had for a time been in command of an Albanian force co-operating with the Italian troops in Albania.

LIVES MUST NOT BE PUT IN JEOPARDY

While There is a Discussion of What May Be Regarded as Defensive Armament.

HINTS OF POSTPONEMENT

May Insist on Limitations of Armament but Can Not Require Exclusion of Same.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Secretary Lansing indicated today that the United States was prepared under certain circumstances to discuss with the German government what may properly be regarded as defensive armament for merchant ships. In no event, however, according to authoritative information tonight will the United States be a party to such negotiations unless it is assured that the lives of American citizens aboard ships armed for defensive purposes will not be endangered during the course of the discussion.

Only three days remain before the German and Austrian submarine commanders will be instructed to treat armed merchant ships as war vessels. There was no indication today that issuance of the order, announced in formal notifications from the central powers for February 28, would be postponed, although it was admitted that a postponement would not come as a surprise.

Willing to Wait. Leaders in both Houses of Congress, who for several days have agitated passage of a resolution warning Americans not to travel on armed ships, seemed convinced tonight that no such measure could be put through at present. Senator Gore, who has such a resolution pending, issued a statement saying that while he still favored a warning he believed the objects sought by his resolution already had been accomplished through public discussion. Representative McElmore, whose warning resolution in the House has been kept from coming up by administration leaders, said he was content to wait until the present session.

WAR PROFITS IN GERMANY TO BE TAXED

Under the New Plan of Taxation Just Announced in the City of Berlin.

DIRECT TAX IS AVOIDED

Real "War Babies" with Heavy War Profits Further Hit by an Increased Rate.

(By Associated Press.) BERLIN, Feb. 25. (via London, Feb. 26.)—Germany's newly expected taxations were announced today by the government. They include taxes upon the war profits of individuals and corporations and also indirect measurements of the taxation.

An estimated yield on the taxation of war profits is given. The government in fact is unable to estimate the sum to be derived because a large number of corporations have not yet sent in their reports and only the roughest guesses regarding the financial status of individuals are possible.

The war profits measure is divided into two sections. The section for individuals takes the form of a graduated tax on property increment between January 1, 1914 and 1917. The tax commences with five per cent up to the next 30,000 marks, six per cent on the next 30,000 marks, and rises in successive stages to twenty-five per cent on increases of over 500,000 marks.

A direct tax upon increased income is avoided largely owing to objections, it is said, made by individuals. (Continued on page 2, first section.)

IRISH SINGER ORGANIZING A REGIMENT



Left to right: Duke of Connaught, Major Edmund Burke and Lieut. Col. Alan A. Magee.

Edmund Burke, the Irish baritone who toured this country with Melba a few years ago, is forming an Irish volunteer regiment in Canada. For St. Patrick's day he is arranging a big benefit performance for the Red Cross at Ottawa under the patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. Major Burke, who is in line for promotion, enlisted four months ago.

BIG BATTLE DOES NOT SCARE PARIS

Where There Are No Indications of Tension but Only Sober Confidence.

(By Associated Press.) PARIS, Feb. 26.—Paris is extraordinarily calm in the presence of the great battle now in progress around Verdun. There are no indications of tension or nervousness, but only sober confidence in the result prevails.

The desire among those who know the defensive strength of the lines seems to be that the attack should continue; for, they argue, the losses on the German side would be in proportion to the efforts.

There were few persons around the newspaper bulletin boards today and no crowds at the ministry of war or other public offices.

The whole front from the North sea to Switzerland is on the alert, and all leave of absence has been recalled. The French maximum effort has not yet been made. The total French losses in killed, wounded and prisoner since the Verdun battle, it was authoritatively stated this evening, have been less than the German official communication claims in prisoners.

The Temps military review, which is usually written by General Delacroix, sums up the situation thus: The battle being fought is ex-

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KILLED BY TRAIN

Is a Veteran Coal Mining Man near Fairmont in a Blinding Snow Storm.

(SPECIAL TO THE TELEGRAM.) FAIRMONT, Feb. 26.—Alexander Tucker, aged 45, a prominent citizen of Kingmont, and veteran mining man, while walking along the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad to Fairmont this evening, stepped from one track to avoid an approaching coal train in front of two light engines on the other track. His body was ground to pieces. The accident happened during a blinding snow storm, and the approach of the engines was not detected by the victim. He is survived by a widow, who was Miss Mary Work, of Union district, member of a prominent family, and a daughter, 12 years of age.

VOLUNTEERS IN TIMES OF PEACE MAYBE

Present Project is Somewhat Similar to Recently Rejected Continental Army Plan.

CIVILIAN TRAINING CAMPS

Members Are Willing to Federalize National Guard if Force Can Be Sufficient.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—A growing tendency to provide for a federal army reserve in addition to the regular army and federalized national guard was manifest today in both the House and Senate military committees.

Members of both committees said they favored a practical test of the possibility of forming a federal volunteer army in peace times, on lines somewhat similar to the continental army plan. The apparent intention to abandon the continental project wholly was one of the causes leading up to the resignation of Secretary Garrison.

The House committee agreed today upon the general terms of a bill it expects to get before the House within ten days providing for a regular army with an authorized peace strength of 132,000 men; a federalized national guard which would reach a minimum strength of 424,000 in five years; adequate reserve systems for both of these forces; and organization of civilian training camps with wide discretion reposed in the war department as to the terms of enlistment, training and government.

Training Camps Planned.

The Senate committee has agreed tentatively to a plan under which training camps would be authorized in every congressional district where sufficient men volunteered for training under an obligation for war service. The maximum force to be thus raised in any district would be a battalion or substantially the same number proposed for the first year of the Garrison continental army plan. The camps would be under command of full complements of regular army officers.

Members of both committees, while saying they would support any good plan for federalizing the national guard as a first line force, frankly admitted today that they had doubts whether a requisite force could be enlisted in the national guard, even under the proposed federal pay and regulation provisions. Representative Kahn, who has advocated an extension of the business men's training camp idea to all classes of citizens who would not enlist in the regulars or the national guard, said today that with 30,000 men already enrolled for intensive military training this summer, without government aid, he had received assurances that fully 100,000 would be available next year under his plan.

Take Similar View.

Members of the Senate committee are understood to take a similar view. The tentative plan they are considering is in addition to the regular army and national guard proposals and is intended to reach men who would not be found in either of those services.

The House committee arrived at its regular army figure today as a compromise after suggestions of a peace strength of 220,000, 180,000 and 150,000 had been voted down by narrow margins. A non-partisan vote finally fixed upon 137,000 or 2,000 more than recommended by the war department, with a provision designed to allow a percentage of over enlistment in order to maintain that strength at all times. With this provision the total strength authorized would be 143,000. To provide officers to carry out work of instruction schools, among militia regiments and for other special duties, 1,000 additional men in the commissioned personnel was added upon as against an increase of 736 proposed by the war department.

To Double Coast Artillery. The increase over the department figures would be in field and coast artillery, the former being over its present strength. A total of twelve regiments or 108 batteries, is contemplated. The coast artillery would be increased to a point where regulars to man all mine and torpedo defenses and one-half the guns in fixed fortifications, would be available with an additional complement.

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NEW COMMANDER

Of the Russian Armies on the Northern Front of the War is Appointed.

(By Associated Press.) PETROGRAD, via London, Feb. 26.—General Alexei Kuropatkin has been appointed commander-in-chief of the Russian armies on the northern front.

General Kuropatkin, who was commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in Manchuria at the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war, succeeds General Nicholas V. Ruzsky, who was relieved of the command on the Russian northern front December 20 last. The Russian northern army has been repelling the attempt of the Germans to capture Riga.

REPEAL BILL READY.

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—The administration's bill to repeal the free sugar clause of the tariff law, which would become effective May 1, probably will be reported favorably by the House ways and means committee today.